

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 SPC-03 AID-20

NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03 H-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 PM-07 AGR-20 FPC-01 SCA-01 PPT-02 DOTE-00

FAA-00 CAB-09 ST-01 EUR-25 OC-06 CCO-00 PC-04 SCS-03

OPR-02 DRC-01 /251 W  
----- 045127

R 052040Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3261

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG PFOR BH

SUBJECT: FUEL SITUATION IN BELIZE

REF: BELIZE 637 NOTAL

1. THE ESSO REGIONAL OFFICE IN GUATEMALA WHICH PROVIDES ALL  
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN BULK HERE HAS PROMISED THE GOB THAT BELIZE  
WILL RECEIVE A FULL SHIPMENT OF FUELF AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS ON  
DECEMBER 17. THE TOTAL SHIPMENT WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 2.5

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MILLION GALLONS. ALL OF IT WILL COME FROM ARUBA, INSTEAD OF

JAMAICA AS IT HAS IN THE PAST. RETAIL PRICES WILL INCREASE APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT OVER CURRENT LEVELS WHEN THE NEW SHIPMENT REACHES THE MARKET.

2. ESSO ALSO TOLD THE GOB THAT IT CANNOT MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS ABOUT SHIPMENTS AFTER DECEMBER 17. BELIZE NORMALLY OPERATES ON A 45-DAY REPLENISHMENT CYCLE. ESSO WILL MAKE A SHIPMENT TO BELIZE AT THE END OF JANUARY, BUT MOST LIKELY AT A LEVEL CONSIDERABLY BELOW 2.5 MILLION GALLONS. ALSO THE MAKE-UP OF THE JANUARY SHIPMENT IS STILL UNDETERMINED. ESSO HAS ADVISED THE GOB TO TAKE CONSERVATION MEASURES NOW.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE WARNING FROM ESSO THE GOB HAS INSTITUTED THE FOLLOWING MEASURES:

A. FUEL AVAILABILITIES TO GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IS BEING LOWERED BY 20 PERCENT EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. HOW EACH DEPARTMENT ALLOCATES ITS AVAILABLE FUEL WILL BE ITS RESPONSIBILITY.

B. DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME WILL BEGIN AT MIDNIGHT DECEMBER 5.

C. AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STORES MAY REMAIN OPEN ONLY UNTIL 6 P.M., EXCEPT SATURDAY WHEN THEY CAN OPEN FROM 7 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

D. PETROLEUM PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE EXPORTED EXCEPT UNDER LICENSE.

E. SALE OF FUEL TO VEHICLES WITH FOREIGN LICENSE PLATES WILL BE FORBIDDEN.

F. ALL GAS STATIONS WILL BE CLOSED FROM 6 P.M. SATURDAY UNTIL 6 A.M. MONDAY.

G. THE SPEED LIMIT ON HIGHWAYS HAS BEEN LOWERED FROM 50 TO 40 MILES PER HOUR.

4. THE KEY PETROLEUM PRODUCT FOR BELIZE IS DIESEL FUEL. DIESEL POWERS THE TRUCKS WHICH BRING IN THE SUGAR CANE AND POWERS THE TUGS WHICH BRING THE SUGAR TO BELIZE CITY. IT ALSO PROVIDES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE POWER FOR THE CITRUS PROCESSING INDUSTRY. MOST FUNDAMENTAL, ALL ELECTRIC POWER IN THE COUNTRY IS PRODUCED WITH DIESEL GENERATORS. THUS, SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN DIESEL SHIPMENTS BY ESSO WOULD DEAL A CRIPPLING BLOW TO THE BELIZEAN ECONOMY. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP DATA ON MINIMUM NEEDS TO KEEP ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES FUNCTIONING.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM APPROPRIATE AGENCIES THAT

VEHICLES, YACHTS, VESSELS AND TRANSIENT AIRCRAFT CALLING AT  
BELIZE MAY WELL FIND IT DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO BUY  
FUEL DURING THE COMING MONTHS. DRISCOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, FUEL OIL, RETAIL PRICES, RATIONING, EXPORT CONTROLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** hilburpw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BELIZE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, PFOR, BH, ESSO  
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